



Speech by

Phil Reeves

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Hansard Friday, 9 June 2006

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

Mr REEVES (Mansfield—ALP) (2.30 pm): It is my pleasure to speak in support of the Beattie government's ninth budget. Tuesday, 13 June marks the time that I have been lucky enough to have been the member for Mansfield—eight years I will have been the member for Mansfield.

Government members interjected.

Ms Keech: You have been a fantastic member.

Mr REEVES: I take those interjections—all of them. As I said, this is the Beattie government's ninth budget. I would like to congratulate the Treasurer on handing down her first budget, a budget which undoubtedly will deliver great results for the families of Queensland. I know that residents in the Mansfield electorate in the suburbs of Upper Mount Gravatt, Wishart, Eight Mile Plains, Mansfield, Mackenzie, Rochedale, Rochedale South, Burbank, Sheldon and Carindale will share in the benefits of this budget which will build a better Queensland.

This budget has especially advanced on two of the state government's key priorities: improving our health system and investing in education. The Beattie government has been more committed to improving health services than any other government in the history of our state. Our health system continues to improve with the exceptional leadership of this government. On behalf of the residents of the Mansfield electorate, I commend the Premier and the health minister for their leadership and commitment to making our health system the best in Australia.

In this budget, all Queenslanders will reap the benefits of that commitment. This year's record Health budget has boosted health funding by 24 per cent to \$6.65 billion. In this budget, funding for the health action plan has mushroomed from \$6.4 billion to \$9.7 billion over five years. Improving our health system involves much more than increases in funding; it requires leadership and a plan to get things done. Under the health action plan, this government has promised and delivered more doctors, more nurses and more allied health professionals.

Actions speak louder than words, and I am proud to be a member of a state that is acting and getting results for Queenslanders. This government promised 300 more doctors by December this year—272 have already been appointed. This government promised 400 extra allied health staff by December this year. We have not only met but exceeded this commitment, with 413 allied health staff already appointed. This government promised to recruit 500 extra nurses by this December and we have doubled that amount already, with 1,082 nurses already appointed. Clearly, the health action plan was rightly named. It is more than just promises; it is a plan of action to improve health services in our state.

In the 2005-06 financial year, \$17.6 million in ongoing funding saw 16 additional hospital beds open at the Mater Adult Hospital, 12 at the Mater Children's Hospital, six at the QEII and six at the Redland Hospital. This budget further builds on last year's commitment. This budget will provide funds to continue improving health services for the residents in the Mansfield electorate. Residents in Upper Mount Gravatt, Wishart, Eight Mile Plains, Mansfield, Mackenzie, Rochedale, Rochedale South, Burbank, Sheldon and Carindale will all share in the benefits of \$24.91 million to provide new public patient services at the Mater Mothers and Mater Adult hospitals; \$8 million to the PA Hospital for 12 additional in-patient beds—eight

beds are surgical and four are for high-dependency patients; \$7.2 million from a statewide commitment of \$39 million for enhanced cardiac services at the QEII, PA and Mater hospitals; and \$5.4 million for new cancer services at the QEII, PA and Mater hospitals, establishing in-patient palliative care services at QEII and enhancing PA bone marrow transplant services.

Residents of Rochedale South will benefit from the funding boost given to the Logan Hospital in this budget. This budget provides \$300,000 for the refurbishment of the Logan oncology ward and \$5,494,000 towards a \$7,460,000 upgrade of the Logan Hospital emergency department.

Sheldon residents will be pleased to hear that this budget has provided significant funding for the Redland Hospital. In this budget, \$7,065,000 towards a total of \$11,550,000 has been allocated for an upgrade of Redland Hospital's emergency department, and \$3.57 million has been put towards a total \$3.87 million upgrade of the renal dialysis at the Redland Hospital. This government takes the health of Queenslanders very seriously, and the residents of the Mansfield electorate are the big winners from this commitment.

The health action plan is not only getting things done now to improve our health system but also preparing for the future. The state government has made a commitment to promote and encourage healthier lifestyles for Queenslanders. Notably, the state government has provided \$21 million over three years to combat the growing problem of obesity. As chair of a review into the level of physical activity in schools, I know that this government's priority of improving Queensland health extends beyond improving health services to improving the actual health of Queenslanders. This commitment to improving the attitudes that Queenslanders have about their health is part of the government's total commitment to improving the overall health of Queenslanders. There is no doubt in my mind that encouraging healthier lifestyles among our children today will pay big dividends in the future—a future where more and more people are realising that Queensland is the best place in the world to live, work and raise a family.

The \$9.7 billion health action plan is about thinking ahead and not only trying to address today's problems but also preventing problems from arising in the future. Under the plan the state government has promised to put pressure on Canberra to ensure that Queenslanders receive the 325 extra medical places that Queensland, as the fastest growing state in Australia, needs.

I would like to join with the 314 other Mansfield electorate residents who signed a petition earlier this year to get more Commonwealth funded training places for doctors in urging the Premier and health minister to continue fighting for Queenslanders to ensure that we are not forgotten when Canberra allocates training places for doctors. This government is also lending a helping hand to tomorrow's health professionals today. Tomorrow's Mansfield electorate residents will benefit from this government's commitment to provide 50 Griffith University bonded medical scholarships, 300 diploma of nursing placements for student nurses at Queensland TAFEs and 362 internships to graduating medical students. I am proud to be part of a government that is providing more educational opportunities for tomorrow's doctors, nurses and allied health professionals.

Conscious that my throat is about to expire, I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Smart State Investment in Education

This Government has invested more in the education of Queenslanders than any government before it.

Education in Queensland has its strongest ally in the Beattie Labor Government.

This commitment to education is clear in this Budget's historic Tomorrow's Schools funding package for education.

This Budget will provide up to 224 more teachers to meet growing enrolments and an extra 150 more teachers to bring class sizes down to 28 for students in Years 4-10.

This government is committed to improving the classroom experiences for students and this Budget will do just that by putting more teachers in our schools.

Next year will also see a revolution in Queensland education with the introduction of prep year classes in both state and non-state schools.

This represents a significant change in primary school education in our state.

To prepare for this change, this Budget has allocated \$106 million in funding for the single largest school building program in the history of Queensland.

The program will refurbish or build 1,600 prep year classrooms in state schools.

Next year will be a huge year for education in Queensland and an exciting time for families with children born in the first half of 2002.

Tomorrow's Schools will lay the foundation for a record \$1 billion in funding over five years for our State's education system, including a five-year \$850 million capital works program for state schools.

What is perhaps the most historic aspect of this program is the unprecedented level of consultation with Parents and Citizens Associations and local community groups that the program sets out.

Working with P & Cs

In the 2006-2007 year alone, \$20 million has been allocated for planning and designing work which will involve consultation with P&Cs.

I enjoy working with all the P&C and P&F groups in my electorate and I have no doubt that the views of the Mansfield State School, Mansfield State High School, Mount Gravatt East State School, Mount Petrie, Rochedale State High School, Rochedale South and Rochedale State School P&Cs will have invaluable input into the capital works at their respective schools.

I know that the P&Cs in my electorate will also be very much interested in the \$50 million School Community Development Fund for state school communities announced in the Budget.

With the Fund designed to support small projects that improve the learning environment, I look forward to endorsing submissions from local state schools.

From my experiences with supporting grant applications, I know that the projects will be innovative and highly valuable for school communities.

I congratulate the Education Minister on providing this opportunity for school communities to have a say in the development of their school.

Non-State Schools Share in Education Investment

Under this Budget, non-state schools will receive \$368.7 million in recurrent funding and a further \$46.8 million in capital assistance.

Furthermore, the State Government recognises the need that Catholic and non-state schools have for capital assistance and as a result in 2005-2006 these schools will share in a one-off payment of \$100 million to further assist with capital assistance, external infrastructure and the increasing demand for information and communication technologies.

Non-state schools play a highly-valued role in our community and this is no more evident than in the Mansfield electorate.

Brisbane Adventist College, Christian Outreach College, Redeemer Lutheran College, Sinai College, St Catherine's Catholic Primary and St Peter's Primary School are highly respected in the greater Brisbane community and will all share in the state government's commitment to investment in education.

As a former non-state school student, I highly value the important role non-state and Catholic schools play in our community and I am sure this funding boost will assist them to further meet the needs of their students and school communities.

Mr Speaker, as this investment in non-state schools shows, the State Government is committed to improving education in all Queensland schools.

Major Funding for Local State Education

Parents and students in the Mansfield electorate will undoubtedly benefit from the Budget's investment in education.

Local residents who attend TAFE in our area will appreciate the \$9.82 million in funding committed to the \$25 million refurbishment of the Mt Gravatt Campus of the Moreton TAFE.

Once again, local schools are big winners in the Budget.

Rochedale State School will receive:

- \$810,000 for an upgrade of the administration area;
- \$333,000 for a major classroom upgrade to support practical learning initiatives; and
- \$194,000 to continue installation of a sewage disposal system with a total cost of \$207,000.

Mansfield State High School, Mansfield State School, Mount Gravatt East State School and Rochedale South State School will share in \$74,000 for targeted maintenance of buildings.

\$61,000 will be given for high priority maintenance related to a classroom at Wishart State School and flooring at Mansfield State School and Mount Gravatt East State School.

Under the Triple R Maintenance Program, \$37,000 has been allocated for repainting at Rochedale South State School and Rochedale State School.

Local schools are clearly better off under this Budget.

Local Transport and Main Roads Improved

Local residents will all benefit from this Budget's investment in local transport and roads infrastructure.

The jewel in the crown of the State Government's commitment to improving public transport in South East Queensland has been the Busway Network.

As the number-one ticket holder on the South East Busway, I have witnessed the Busway network rapidly improve services and help patronage levels soar to all-time highs.

In this Budget, \$7.1 million towards a total of \$39.03 million in maintenance works will be spent on the South East Busway.

Additionally, \$33.5 million has been allocated for the construction of a two-lane Eastern Busway Corridor connection from Buranda to Boggo Rd to the Green Bridge—or possibly the Go-Betweens Bridge—accessing the University of Queensland.

Local Police and Emergency Services Strengthened

The State Government is committed to making our communities safer.

No Government has been as committed to improving safety and security in the Mansfield electorate as the Beattie Labor Government.

In this Budget, Upper Mount Gravatt will receive funding for a makeover—

- \$2,000,000 of total project cost \$3,000,000 will be spent on the Upper Mt Gravatt Police Station Refurbishment.
- \$962,000 of total \$2,998,000 will be spent to fund the relocation of the Mt Gravatt fire station to Wishart.

This relocation will see the introduction of a brand new, state-of-the-art facility which will improve response times in our rapidly growing local area.

Local residents will also share in 20 new paramedics for the Greater Brisbane Region as part of the 2004-05 commitment to recruit 240 extra paramedics across the State over three years at a total cost of \$35.9 million.

Budget Builds Stronger Suburbs

This Budget also puts funding towards building our suburbs.

In the Mansfield electorate, local residents will benefit from smart and shrewd government which will pay dividends both now and into the future.

Eight Mile Plains residents will be pleased to hear that \$909 000 has been allocated in this Budget to install noise barriers on the Gateway Arterial on sections between the South East Freeway and Mt Gravatt- Capalaba Rd.

Carindale residents are also big winners in the Budget.

Highlights for Carindale residents include:

- \$2.7 million for the Belmont to Murarrie Reinforcement 275v powerline
- \$2,414,000 of total project cost of \$2,530,000 for a new Ambulance Station at Carindale

Mr Speaker, this Budget provides real results for the residents of the Mansfield electorate.

However, the people will decide on the success of this Budget.

I will continue working hard to ensure that the residents of the Mansfield electorate continue to get the very best from this Budget and the State Government.